(b) The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight measurable, time bound goals and targets adopted at the UN Millennium Summit in September, 2000. One of the MDGs on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability deals most explicitly with biodiversity. Reversing the loss of biodiversity can help in sustainable access of people to safe drinking water, food, shelter and both modern and traditional medicines, thus significantly improving the life and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Allocations to Rajasthan under Macro Management Scheme

1956. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Rajasthan during the last three years under Macro Management Scheme;

(b) the funds, so far, utilized by the State, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to popularize Macro Management Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFS AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The amount of funds allocated and released to the State Government of Rajasthan as also the amount (including the unspent balance of the preceding year) utilised by the State Government under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme during the last three years ending 31st March 2005 are as indicated below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Unspent balance	Release	Utilization
2002-03	6700.00	540.98	6700.00	5397.17
2003-04	6700.00	1943.81	6571.19	7025.50
2004-05	6800.00	1489.50	11955.30*	8898.26

*Includes Additional Central Assistance

Under the Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme, the States have been given flexibility to develop and pursue activities on the basis

of their regional priorities. The States are, therefore, free to allocate funds to the various programmes included in their Work Plans according to their priorities within the ceiling of funds allocated to them.

Saving cum Relief Scheme

1957 SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for sanction of National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen Saving-cum-Relief Scheme for the year 2005-06, with a total outlay of Rs. 40.72 lakhs;

(b) if so, whether Government taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government had been requested to release its share of Rs. 20.36 lakhs for this Scheme;

(f) if so, whether the Central Government would assure of releasing it at the earliest; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN); (a) to (g) The Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen has saving-cum-relief as one of its component. The assistance extended under this component is shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis. On receipt of proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to cover 6786 fishermen under saving-cum-relief component of the scheme involving total financial implication of Rs. 40.72 lakh, Central share of Rs. 20.36 lakh has been provided to the State in October 2005. Besides, a sum of Rs. 5.0 lakh has been provided to the State in February 2006 to cover 1666 additional fishermen under this component.